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NSC BRIEF 7

10 NOV BER 1955

**SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN MIDDLE EAST**

I. Soviet action has shifted swiftly to the Middle East as the most dramatic phase of a campaign to penetrate underdeveloped countries all over the world.

A. Even as Moscow was smiling at West, the Communists were planning arm deals with the Arabs.

B. Immediate Soviet objectives are:

1. To nullify Western-sponsored mutual defense structures - the northern tier.
2. Encourage emergence of a neutralist bloc which can bargain with and seek blessing of, both East and

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- C. Indirect benefit to Soviet aims and strengthening of Egypt stem from North African ferment.
1. Threatens French adherence to Western alliance.
  2. Threatens status of US bases in the area.
  3. Enhances appeal of neutralism, which the USSR supports.

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